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and expedition. This is assured when they can be read in the language in which they are ostensibly published. An author is of course presumed to have studied carefully each foreign text that he reproduces, and the reader, who cannot be expected to give as much time to the reading of a work as the author gave to its composition, naturally desires to have the full benefit of that study, just as Dr. Phillipson has, as he states, availed himself of the translations of Jowett and Shuckburgh. It may therefore be hoped that Dr. Phillipson, in the further publications which he has in contemplation, will make it an invariable rule to help the reader in this respect.

J. B. M.

THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAW ANNOTATED. By JOSEPH DODD-RIDGE BRANNAN. Cincinnati. THE W. H. ANDERSON COMPANY. 1911. pp. xxxiii, 30.

This is one of the most useful editions of the Negotiable Instruments Law. It represents not only a great deal of labor, on the part of Professor Brannan, but it discloses his appreciation of the needs of the student and of the practitioner.

A very useful feature is the table showing the corresponding sections of the Law as found in the statutes of the different States. When a New York lawyer comes upon an Oregon case, decided under section 4508, or a Massachusetts case under section 123, or an Illinois case under section 105, he has but to turn to his table to learn the corresponding section in his own State is 177. Another admirable feature is the statement after each section of the changes, if any, made in the Law by the various States which have adopted it. For example, section 146 (of the N. Y. Act, § 243) is followed by a note that the Kentucky and Wisconsin Acts omit the last sentence, and that the Colorado Act substitutes for it a sentence which is quoted at length.

Again, the difference between the sections of this Law and corresponding provisions of the English Bills of Exchange Act are brought out very clearly in foot notes; while Appendix II contains comparative tables of sections of the two Laws. This is really a great labor saving scheme for the busy lawyer.

The citations of cases are not confined to American reports, but include English decisions as well. Some of the latter are more valuable even to American courts and practitioners, for they contain authoritative interpretations of language which has been copied into our Law. Even when the language of the two Acts differs, the English decisions are often helpful. The annotations show that the English Act has given rise to much less litigation than ours. Probably, we are more litigious than our cousins across the sea. And then, it should be borne in mind that the Negotiable Instrument Law, in its attempt to bring about uniformity, has worked radical changes in the rules of commercial law in many of the States. The disposition of lawyers and judges to retain the old rules, notwithstanding the clear legislative intent to change them, has been shown in the decisions of some of the lower tribunals of this State persisting in the view that one who takes a negotiable instrument for an antecedent debt is not a holder for value. An admirable presentation of the cases on this point is found on pages thirty-two to thirty-four of this work.

A considerable portion of the volume is devoted to the controversy between various critics and defensive of the Law. Whether it was wise to give up the space required for reprinting these in full, may be questionable; but no one can doubt that the book, as a whole, is a thoroughly valuable one.

F. M. B.